

In re: Hargett, Jr. et al.  
Serial No. 10/064,718  
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9. (Amended) A protective composite sleeve for a microwave transparent vessel, said sleeve comprising:

A3 a microwave transparent inner cylindrical polymeric layer;

a first microwave transparent circumferentially wound layer of contiguous yarns adjacent to and concentric with said inner polymeric layer; and

a microwave transparent outer polymeric layer.

Please add the following new claims:

36. A protective composite sleeve material according to Claim 1 wherein said yarns are selected from the group consisting of filament and spun yarns.

37. A protective composite sleeve according to Claim 9 wherein said yarns are selected from the group consisting of filament and spun yarns.

#### Remarks

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to recite that the wound layer is both circumferentially wound and formed of contiguous yarns. In order to further clarify these claims, the term "yarn" has been used in its broadest sense to include both filaments and spun yarns, e.g. Dictionary of Fiber & Textile Technology, Kosa (1999) at page 222. In order to confirm that such yarns can include both filaments and spun yarns, new claims 36 and 37 have been added to depend respectively from Claims 1 and 9 and essentially pick up the language that has been deleted from claims 1 and 9 as amended.

The term "contiguous" has also been added to claims 1 and 9 to further describe the structure, particularly as illustrated in Figure 5, in which the circumferentially wound yarns are in actual contact with one another.